

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 AID-20 EUR-25 RSR-01

/129 W

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O 011245 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4060

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATZ

2723

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1224

FOR ARA/ CEN LAZAR, USOAS JOVA

SUBJECT: HONDURAN POSITIONS IN OASGA: CUBA AND  
SALVADOR DISPUTE

RE: DEPTTEL 058440

SUMMARY: FONMIN BATRES SAID GOH COULD MAKE NO  
ADVANCE COMMITMENT ON CUBA VOTE, SINCE IT IS  
DIRECTING ALL ITS ATTENTION TO ITS OWN INITIATIVE  
IN OASGA. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE COMPLIED WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL ON MAR 31  
WITH FONMIN BATRES. BATRES REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT  
RPT NOT GIVE ANY PRIOR COMMITMENT FOR GOH AS TO HOW IT  
WOULD REACT ON CUBAN OR ANY OTHER ISSUE IN OASGA, SINCE  
GOH DELEGATION WAS EXCLUSIVELY CONCENTRATING ON ITS  
DESIGN TO MAINTAIN OAS INVOLVEMENT IN SALVADOR/ HONDURAN  
DISPUTE. HE DID SAY THAT HE WAS INCLINED TO OPPOSE ANY  
BACK DOOR APPROACH, SUCH AS SIMPLE MAJORITY PASSAGE OF  
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" NORMAL RELATIONS" RESOLUTION. BUT HIS REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT IT COULD HAVE UNDESIRABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR GOH NEGOTIATIONS WITH SALVADOR. HE PLANS TO DISCUSS CUBAN PROBLEM IN REUNION OF CA FONMINS ON APRIL 3.

2. IN EXPLAINING HIS REMARKS ON CUBA, BATRES WENT ON TO SAY GOH WAS " TRAUMATIZED" BY APPARENT TREND IN OAS TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM HONDURAS/ SALVADOR PROBLEM. SINCE AMERICAN ALLIANCE HAD SPECIFIC MECHANISMS FOR DEALING WITH DISPUTES, GOH UTTERLY REJECTED ANY ARGUMENT THAT OAS SHOULD DISENGAGE ITSELF IF A DISPUTE BECAME INTRACTABLE. IF OAS TOOK THIS ATTITUDE IT COULD HAVE " DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES." ( BATRES USED SAME TERM TO CHARGE IN TALK ON SAME SUBJECT ON MAR 29.)

3. CHARGE TRIED TO DRAW BATRES OUT ON GOH CONTINGENCY PLANS IN EVENT OF POOR RECEPTION OF ITS INITIATIVE IN OAS, BUT HE WOULD NOT EXPLAIN HIS " DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES." HE LATER IMPLIED THAT GOH WOULD ANNOUNCE ITS POSITION ON THE CACM RESTRUCTURING AT APRIL 3 MEETING OF CA FONMINS. HE SAID THIS WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION OF SALVADOR RELATIONS, AND THAT GOH WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE ADVISABILITY OF " SENDING OUR MINISTERS AND EXPERTS" TO ONGOING SESSIONS ABOUT CACM RESTRUCTURING.

:& BATRES SAID THAT LP HAD SUPPORT OF SAN JOSE, MANAGUA AND GUATEMALA, TO KEEP OAS SEIZED OF HONDURAS/ SALVADOR PROBLEM.

5. HE THOUGHT THAT SESSION WOULD BE " HEADACHE" FOR EVERYONE. BESIDES HIS PROBLEM AND CUBA, HE BELIEVES THAT PANAMA IS GOING TO RAISE CANAL ISSUE IN GA.

6. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD BY BATRES THAT GOH WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST ADMITTANCE OF UK TO OBSERVER STATUS, BECAUSE OF CA COMMITMENT TO GUATEMALA.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HEARD REPORTS, WHICH WE CANNOT EVALUATE, THAT GOH WILL " LEAVE THE OAS" IF XIII MFN IS TERMINATED PRIOR TO SOLUTION OF GOH/ GOES BILATERAL  
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PROBLEM. DECISION WAS ALLEGEDLY REACHED BY COUNCIL OF

MINISTERS AND GENERAL LOPEZ AFTER LEARNING OF COMMITTEE  
OF SEVEN INCLINATIONS IN THIS DIRECTION.

8. WE HAVE RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS THAT IN HIS  
APPEARANCE BEFORE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN ON APRIL 2,  
BATRES WILL OFFER TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO ON  
MARITIME FRONTIER IN GULF OF FONSECA, PROVIDED  
SALVADOR IS WILLING TO SETTLE SIX DISPUTED AREAS ON  
LAND BORDER. AGAIN, WE CANNOT VERIFY, BUT SUCH APPROACH  
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH REALITY THAT STATUS QUO IN  
GULF IS LONG ESTABLISHED AND RELATIVELY NON-  
CONTROVERSIAL.

9. EMBASSY BELIEVES BORGONOVO'S THOUGHT IS WRONG  
THAT GOH IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE BILATERAL  
SETTLEMENT. WE RATHER THINK THAT HEIGHTENED GOH  
URGENCY AND RIGIDITY RESULT OF EXASPERATION, AND OF  
SELF- CONFIDENCE AND TOUGHNESS WHICH CABINET HAS  
INCREASINGLY DISPLAYED DURING PAST MONTH. A " PATRIOTIC"  
STANCE OF THIS NATURE WOULD PAY SHORT- TERM DIVIDENDS  
IN TERMS OF HONDURAS PUBLIC OPINION WHICH HAS BEEN  
CONSISTENTLY ANTI- OAS SINCE THE '69 WAR.

10. AMBASSADOR MET BRIEFLY WITH BATRES IN GUATEMALA  
AIRPORT THIS MORNING AND FOUND HIM UNCHARACTERISTICALLY  
COOL AND UNCOMMUNICATIVE ON THESE ISSUES.

11. WE ACCORDINGLY HOPE THAT USOAS WILL VERY MUCH  
KEEP IN MIND GOH TOUCHINESS ON QUESTION OF OAS  
INVOLVEMENT IN THIS FOUR YEAR DISPUTE. EMBASSY CANNOT  
PREDICT WHAT " DRASTIC" REACTION MIGHT FOLLOW GOH  
DISAPPOINTMENT. LEAVING OAS SOUNDS EXCESSIVE,  
BUT WE CAN EASILY VISUALIZE DEMONSTRATIVE  
WALKOUT FROM GA, OR SOME UNFAVORABLE  
ANNOUNCEMENT ON CACM.  
RYAN

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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